

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01

OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01 PRS-01

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R 190955Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5726

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1998

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH REACTION TO ENERGY PREPCON

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1. SUMMARY: PRELIMINARY DUTCH CABINET REACTION TO FAILURE
OF PARIS ENERGYCONFERENCE IS THAT IT IS PITY BUT NOT
CATASTROPHE. FON MIN VAN DER STOEL TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT HE
THOUGHT CONSUMER COUNTRIES MADE ALL REASONABLE CONCESSIONS.

OFFICIALS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY PRIVATELY HOPE THAT ANOTHER PREPCON CAN BE POSTPONED UNTIL LATER THIS YEAR OR NEXT.
END SUMMARY.

2. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM RELIABLE SOURCE THAT DUTCH CABINET, IN MEETING APRIL 18, DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE TIME TO DISCUSSION OF PREPARATORY PARIS ENERGY CONFERENCE. NO OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT POSITION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN ON HOW TO PROCEED IN WAKE OF CONFERENCE FAILURE. REACTION IS THAT BREAK-UP IS PITY BUT NOT CATASTROPHE.

3. COMMENTING TO AMBASSADOR DURING MEETING APRIL 16 (THE HAGUE 1986, 1984), FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL SAID "YOU AND WE BOTH DID OUR VERY BEST; WE MADE ALL REASONABLE CONCESSIONS."

3. G. RINGNALDA, FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL WHO IS DEPUTY TO DUTCH IEA REPRESENTATIVE ITALIANER, TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 18 THAT FEELING WITHIN MINISTRY IS THAT IT WAS RIGHT FOR CONFERENCE TO FAIL. HE CITED: (A) LACK OF MOTIVATION FOR ENERGY CONFERENCE ON PART OF SEVEN AND SOME OF THREE, (B) IMPASSE OVER ISSUES SUCH AS RAW MATERIALS AND INDEXATION, AND (C) ABSENCE OF LEADERSHIP AMONG SEVEN.

4. RINGNALDA SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL NOT SAY SO PUBLICLY, BUT PRIVATELY OFFICIALS THINK ANOTHER CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT BE PURSUED UNTIL THIS FALL, FOLLOWING CONSIDERATION OF RAW MATERIALS AND NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AT SPECIAL SESSION OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND UNCTAD. PUBLICLY, MINISTRY WILL SAY THAT NETHERLANDS CONTINUES TO FAVOR WORKING TOWARD FULL ENERGY CONFERENCE.

5. VAN DER STOEL WAS SAID BY RINGNALDA TO BELIEVE IEA SHOULD GET ON WITH ITS OWN WORK. RESULTS OF PARIS CONFERENCE PROVED TO MINISTER THAT US WAS RIGHT IN REGARDING TIMING AS PRE-MATURE AND THAT FRANCE, POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, HAD BEEN NAIVE.

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6. ASKED WHETHER HE THINKS FAILURE OF CONFERENCE WILL AFFECT RELATIONS AMONG EC-NINE, RINGNALDA SAID HE DID NOT. DESIRE OF SOME EC MEMBERS FOR SEPARATE RAW MATERIALS CONFERENCE MIGHT LEAD TO COMMUNITY FRICTION, HOWEVER, GIVEN WHAT HE SAID IS STRONG OPPOSITION TO SUCH MEETING BY GERMANY AND UK, NETHERLANDS FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS FAVOR HANDLING RAW MATERIALS SEPARATELY, ACCORDING TO RINGNALDA, IN ORDER TO GET THEM OUT OF WAY, THEN DEAL WITH ENERGY. HE SAID DUTCH DID NOT BASICALLY OBJECT TO LINKING RAW MATERIALS AND ENERGY, BUT THAT WHEN DUTCH REPRESENTATIVES IN PARIS SUGGESTED ACCEPTING SEVEN'S PROPOSAL FOR SUCH LINKAGE, MATTER FLOUNDERED OVER SEVEN'S REFUSAL TO DROP INDEXATION, A CONDITION OF DUTCH SUGGESTION.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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